

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please replace the first paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A probe needle apparatus having a conductive central core with alternating layers of dielectric and conductive materials is provided. The apparatus includes the conductive central core, a first layer of dielectric material applied to maintain electrical access to the conductive central core while providing continuous isolation of the conductive central core elsewhere, and a conductive driven guard layer applied around the first layer of dielectric material in electrical isolation from the conductive central core. The conductive driven guard layer is applied on the first layer of dielectric material with a mask on an end of the conductive central core to prevent the conductive driven guard layer from touching the conductive central core.